



Consumer Assistance and Referee Centers

MARCH 2001

A Consumer Assistance and Referee (CAR) Center is a special vehicle emissions test facility providing Smog Check assistance to motorists through a referee. A referee is a licensed smog technician who is authorized to address matters beyond the scope of California's licensed Smog Check stations. CAR Centers are located primarily at California Community Colleges.

***Clean
Air is
Everyone's
Job***

Referees also provide training and work experience opportunities at CAR Centers. The Bureau of Automotive Repair (BAR) trains referees and provides technical direction and equipment. Referees train students and welfare recipients for careers in the automotive industry. BAR's primary goal is to produce better-trained automotive smog technicians. A secondary goal is to produce a workforce that can enhance the automotive industry.

CAR Center Referees:

1. Issue Repair Cost Waivers and Extensions

2. Inspect Vehicles with Engine Changes, Gray Market Vehicles, and Specially Constructed Vehicles

Engine Changes. Vehicles whose original engines have been replaced with an engine not originally offered for that vehicle's year, make, or model.

Gray Market Vehicles. Vehicles imported into the United States that do not meet U. S. EPA standards.

Specially Constructed Vehicles. Vehicles, such as dune buggies or kit cars, that are deemed "specially constructed" by the DMV.

Once these vehicles are inspected and certified by a CAR Center, a BAR label will be affixed to the vehicle. Any licensed Smog Check station may perform subsequent inspections as long as the BAR label remains in place and the vehicle's emissions equipment remains the same.

3. Certify Vehicles with Limited Parts Exemptions

Motorists whose vehicles fail a Smog Check because of missing or damaged emission-related parts must replace those parts. The BAR's Emissions Parts Locator helps motorists find the parts or grants a Limited Parts Exemption when they cannot be found. When a Limited Parts Exemption is granted, the motorist must take his or her vehicle to a CAR Center. If it passes all other

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aspects of the Smog Check inspection, the vehicle will be certified. If the parts are available in time for the next required smog inspection, they must be installed before the vehicle can be certified. BAR's Emissions Parts Locator can be reached at (800) 826-3566.

To Make a CAR Center Appointment

Call (800) 622-7733 to schedule an appointment with a CAR Center. The CAR Center will charge a fee for Smog Check inspections and services performed.

CAR Center Referees offer:

1. Training and Work Experience Opportunities

Referees at CAR Centers provide training opportunities. Training includes career path information in the automotive industry, with emphasis on obtaining a smog technician license.

2. Student Lane Technician Program

The CAR Centers offer paid, on-the-job, smog technician training to qualified students. For more information on this program, call the CCF Operations Manager at (916) 418-5200.

3. Work Experience Program

CCF, under the direction of BAR, and in cooperation with California's CalWorks program, provides welfare recipients on-the-job training at CAR Centers.

Before being admitted to a ten-week, 400-hour, hands-on program, participants must show they possess the ability to read, write, interpret, make simple calculations, and understand basic records and correspondence. They must be able to apply practical mathematics and basic problem-solving methods. When the participant completes the program, s/he may mentor new trainees.

Training May Include:

1. Office Work
2. Safety
3. Equipment Maintenance and Use
4. Vehicle Inspection
5. Emissions Diagnostics

The participant demonstrates his/her learned experience through performance and a series of tests. After successful completion, the participant receives a certificate, a referral letter and help finding a job.

For more information about this program, contact the CCF Work Experience Coordinator at (800) 757-2907.